



Location - From Boise on Idaho 21 northeast to the junction of Idaho 75 at Stanley.

Length - 130.9 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway - A winding, two-lane, paved road with some steep grades and some passing lanes. There usually is a snow floor north of Lowman during winter. Severe avalanche conditions exist in the Banner Summit area and road closures can be frequent. Check conditions before traveling in winter!

When to see it - Throughout the year. May be closed in winter.

Special attractions - Lucky Peak and Arrow Rock Reservoirs; Lucky Peak State Park; Idaho City; Sawtooth Wilderness; Granite Creek Interpretive Trail; Lowman Fire Interpretive Signs; Kirkham Hot Springs; Stanley Lake; Boise, Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; Forest Service/BLM Visitor Information Center in Boise, and the Idaho City, Lowman, and Stanley Ranger Stations.

Camping - There are five campgrounds between the Idaho City area and Crooked River Road turn off (Milepost 57); four campgrounds between Lowman and the Grandjean turn off (Milepost 94); and five campgrounds between Banner Summit (Milepost 105) and Stanley.

Services - Full services in Boise, Idaho City, Lowman and Stanley.

Contacts - Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: 208-774-3411, www.stanleycc.org; Boise National Forest: 208-373-4007; www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise; info@bnf.org; Stanley Ranger Station: 208-774-3000; Sawtooth NRA: 208-727-5013; audio tape tours available from Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation: 208-334-4199.

Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway

The Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway starts in Boise. It follows Idaho 21 north to the historic mining town of Idaho City, where you can still pan for gold in a nearby stream bed. Campgrounds and fishing opportunities dot the route from Idaho City to Lowman and along the South Fork of the Payette River, as you slowly climb along the byway's northeasterly route.

At the cutoff road to Grandjean, the roadway leaves the Payette River and squeezes between two of Idaho's wilderness areas. On the right, the Sawtooth Wilderness and its 217,000 pristine acres of coniferous forest lands and wilderness lakes. To the left, the Salmon-Challis National Forest, entryway to the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, with more contiguous acres of roadless wilderness than anywhere else in the lower 48 states.

From Banner Summit, one of Idaho's highest at 7,056 feet, you begin a descent into the town of Stanley. As the roadway grooves through the steep foothills and thick forest, you can catch glimpses of the Sawtooth Mountains ahead; finally, as you drop into Stanley, they come into full, magnificent view.

